



January 30, 2024

House Environment and Transportation Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401

FAVORABLE - HB0107 Better Bus Service Act of 2024

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

Bikemore is writing on behalf of our more than 5,000 engaged constituents and the hundreds of thousands of Baltimoreans who walk, bike, and take transit in support of HB0107.

Dedicated Bus Lanes are an incredibly effective tool to speed bus operations, increase reliability, and grow ridership as a result of those speed and reliability improvements. Jurisdictions across the country are expanding their Dedicated Bus Lane Networks, including significant growth in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore City.

But Dedicated Bus Lanes are only as effective as the enforcement of them. A single parked or standing car in a block can seriously impede operations, removing travel time savings benefits for an entire trip. Cities that have seen transformative changes in transit related to installation of Dedicated Bus Lanes—such as New York City—have paired those installations with automated enforcement. Other cities have taken note, and are implementing their own enforcement, including Washington, D.C.

HB0107 will normalize automated enforcement expectations across the urbanized region's service networks of WMATA and MDOT MTA, providing the driving public with clear expectations of enforcement if they drive in bus lanes or stop, stand, or park obstructing bus lanes or transit stops. Revenue generated by enforcement can be used to engineer permanent infrastructure discouraging blocking bus lanes and bus stops.

We need to do everything in our power to make transit more frequent, reliable, and accessible. This includes the larger conversation of fully funding our transit needs in Maryland, but it also means taking every small opportunity to make transit riders' lives easier. HB0107 will do that.

We encourage a favorable report on HB0107.

Sincerely,

Jed Weeks
Executive Director